

Questions and Comments for District Presentation to Council meeting - 2/10/17

Sid Grow 01/18/17

1. Erich Marzolf, Director of SJRWMD during a 1/10/17 presentation to Friends of Lake Apopka(FOLA) stated new gates are being installed in LANS for flood control during major storms. SJRWMD(District) response to the HCLRC(Council) letter dated 8/29/17, issue #1 states District will not reconnect LANS in near term. This is due to three reasons: 1) fish migration might occur that are unsafe to eat, 2) reconnection would limit District ability to manage phosphorous discharges and 3) reconnection would limit Districts ability to manage water on LANS. Will high water in the LANS flow back thru dikes? Why did District tell FOLA they are reconnecting the LANS and the Council they will not in the near term?
2. District told FOLA on 1/10/17 they have permits into COE for approval to dig deep holes and pump muck out. The district also wants to vacuum muck out and send thru a pipe from Magnolia Park to the LANS with bids expected out approx. 9/2017. Council requested on 7/8/16 that the District provide a list of potential projects using the funds approved by the Florida Legislature bill HB 989 which provides \$5 million per year for Lake Apopka. Does the District consider the two projects listed above part of the \$5 million and why was the Council not provided with the District plan to spend the Legislature funding as requested? The budget year started over 7 months ago.
3. Erich Marzolf on 1/10/17 told FOLA they will use muck vacuumed and piped to LANS to spread on the ground. District told the Council in response to the 8/29/16 letter they will pump "safe" muck and move to the LANS. How will District determine good muck from bad muck since the muck moves in the lake freely due currents and wind? How will the District know if they are spreading contaminated flocculent or flocculent with very low carcinogens, toxins, OCP's, etc?
4. District response to Council letter dated 8/29/16, issue #2 stated they will not reconnect the LANS due to carcinogens per the Health and Human Risk Assessments. District stated in response to issue #2 they have no plans to use sediments from dredging to create windbreaks, small islands, and/or deep holes in LANS, yet told FOLA they want to spread sediments on LANS. Has evaluations of the muck changed to allow the muck to be spread on the LANS since the 8/29/16 letter response by the District?
5. District in response to the 8/29/16 Council letter was against using geotubes to assist in the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) development. Erich Marzolf stated to the FOLA that coconut mats may be used to establish SAV on the shoreline of Lake Apopka. Previous council meetings discussions were held between Council, FWC, and the District regarding using mats to establish SAV and it was decided they don't work. Council feels coconut mats will not be effective due to wave action on the shore line. Council wants the District to make a recommendation on how to improve SAV in Lake Apopka.